

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A process for producing a suspension of hydrophobic  
oxidic particles which has a defined, adjustable viscosity, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein said  
process comprises suspending low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles in at least one  
organic suspension agent and then adding from 0.05% to 15% by weight based on the  
suspension medium of high structured hydrophobic oxidic particles, low structured  
hydrophobic oxidic particles being hydrophobic oxidic particles which, compared with the  
corresponding high structured hydrophobic oxidic particles, have an at least 30% reduced  
dibutyl phthalate absorption and an at least 50% higher tamped density.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
the hydrophobic oxidic particles ~~used~~ are hydrophobic pyrogenic oxidic particles or  
hydrophobic precipitated oxidic particles.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~  
wherein the hydrophobic pyrogenic oxidic particles ~~used~~ comprise a material selected from  
the group consisting of silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide, titanium oxide ~~or~~  
and a mixture thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~at least one of claims 1 to 3,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic pyrogenic oxidic particles ~~used~~ are  
hydrophobic pyrogenic silicas.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~at least one of claims 1 to 4,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles are  
~~used~~ added in an amount from 0.05% to 2.5% by weight based on the suspension medium.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~at least one of claims 1 to 5,~~  
~~characterized in that it utilizes~~ claim 1, wherein said process comprises an organic suspension  
agent selected from the group consisting of alcohols, ketones, ethers, esters, aliphatic or  
aromatic hydrocarbons, amides, ~~or~~ sulfoxides and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process of ~~at least one of claims 1 to 6,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the suspension medium ~~used~~ includes water as well as  
the organic suspension agent.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A suspension of hydrophobic oxidic particles which  
has a defined, adjustable viscosity, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein low structured hydrophobic  
oxidic particles and from 0.05% to 15% by weight based on the suspension medium of high  
structured hydrophobic oxidic particles are present in suspension in at least one organic  
suspension agent, low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles being hydrophobic oxidic  
particles which, compared with the corresponding high structured hydrophobic oxidic  
particles, have an at least 30% reduced dibutyl phthalate absorption and an at least 50%  
higher tamped density.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A suspension of ~~claim 8 obtained~~ produced by a  
process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The suspension of claim 8 ~~or 9, characterized in that~~ wherein the suspension comprises from 0.05% to 2.5% by weight of hydrophobic low-structured oxidic particles based on the suspension medium.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The suspension of ~~at least one of claims 8 to 10,~~ characterized by claim 8, comprising a dynamic viscosity from 1.0 to 1 000 mPa s at a shear rate of greater than 20 s<sup>-1</sup>.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The suspension of ~~at least one of claims 8 to 11,~~ characterized in that claim 8, wherein the suspension medium comprises water as well as the organic suspension agent.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of the suspension of at least one of claims 8 to 12~~ A method for producing soil and water repellent coatings on articles comprising utilizing the suspension as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~The use~~ The method of claim 13, ~~characterized in that the suspension is applied~~ comprising applying the suspension to at least one surface of an article and the suspension medium is subsequently removed.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~ method of claim 13 ~~or 14, characterized in that~~ wherein the suspension is applied by knife coating.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~The use of at least one of claims 13 to 15 for~~ method of claim 13 comprising producing soil and water repellent coatings on textiles.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The ~~use~~ method of claim 16 ~~for comprising~~ producing apparel, industrial textiles and textile building fabrics.

Claim 18 (New): The suspension of claim 9 wherein the suspension comprises from 0.05% to 2.5% by weight of hydrophobic low-structured oxidic particles based on the suspension medium.

Claim 19 (New): The suspension of claim 9, comprising a dynamic viscosity from 1.0 to 1 000 mPa s at a shear rate of greater than  $20 \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

Claim 20 (New): The suspension of claim 9, wherein the suspension medium comprises water as well as the organic suspension agent.

Claim 21 (New): A method for producing soil and water repellent coatings on articles comprising utilizing the suspension as claimed in claim 9.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 21, comprising applying the suspension to at least one surface of an article and the suspension medium is subsequently removed.

Claim 23 (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the suspension is applied by knife coating.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 21 comprising producing soil and water repellent coatings on textiles.

Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 24 comprising producing apparel, industrial textiles and textile building fabrics.